

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Sakhile&Me shows works by Osi Audu and Nnenna Okore at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair in London

The fair returns to Somerset House for a 7th edition during *Frieze Week* from 2 - 6 October 2019

September 30, 2019

Frankfurt/Main, Germany – Sakhile&Me is excited to present a selection of works by Osi Audu and Nnenna Okore at *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* at Somerset House in London, taking place during *Frieze Week* from 2 - 6 October 2019. The Frankfurt-based gallery will participate in the fair for the first time.

Osi Audu's practice over the last three decades has consistently focused on abstract art that retains some figurative elements, forming a series of geometric acrylic paintings in contrasting colours and monochromatic grey and black drawings. Following the Yoruba concept of *Ori Inu* („the inner head“), Audu's works - most of them portraits of the self (hence their title “self-portraits”) - raise questions about the dual and oftentimes multifaceted nature of “the self” and draw attention to the head as a signifier of consciousness and as an object of self-knowing.

Audu received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Ife (Nigeria) in 1980 and his Master of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Georgia in Athens (USA) in 1984. Audu's work has shown in prestigious institutions such as Iwalewa-Haus, Bayreuth, the British Museum, London, the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C., and the Museo Di Palazzo Grimani during the Venice Biennale. He lives and works in New York.

Nnenna Okore is best known for her fiber sculptures whose intricate textures and vibrant colors reference organic elements and explore themes of transience and transformation. Made from burlap, cheesecloth, rope, yarn, paper, and wire, they form richly textured installations sprouting from the walls like organisms growing out to meet the space. More recently, Okore also began creating textured acrylic and clay paintings reminiscent of fossil-like structures and topographic landscapes, inviting the viewer to contemplate the passing of time and prompting an excavation of life forms drawn from memory and imagination.

Okore was born in Australia, raised in Nigeria and Swaziland and is currently Chair of the Art Department at North Park University in Chicago. She has received her bachelor's degree in fine and applied arts from the University of Nigeria Nsukka and her master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa and has trained with El Anatsui, Chike Aniakor and Chijioke Onuora. Over the last two decades, the 2012 Fulbright Fellow has shown in over 100 solo and group exhibitions worldwide. Okore lives and works in both Nigeria and Illinois.

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About the gallery

Sakhile&Me is a contemporary art gallery based in downtown Frankfurt working with emerging and established international artists, creative entrepreneurs and curators, with a particular focus on Africa and its many diasporas. The gallery's two founders, Sakhile Matlhare and Daniel Hagemeyer, received bachelor's degrees from Hamilton College and master's degrees from the University of Sydney. Matlhare then pursued a doctoral degree at Northwestern University focusing on how contemporary artists work alongside curators, art historians, and other art experts in the gatekeeping process, within and beyond the rubric of contemporary African art. Hagemeyer has worked with his father, Achim Hagemeyer (Kunsthandel Hagemeyer), for the past four years, specializing in German Expressionist and classical modern art.

395 words. 2.473 characters.

Opening hours

Tuesday - Friday: 12 pm - 6 pm; Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm; by appointment.

Image Material

Osi Audu. 2018. Portrait. **File name:** osi-audu-large.jpg. **Caption:** Osi Audu.

Nnenna Okore. 2017. Portrait. **File name:** nnenna-okore-large.jpg. **Caption:** Nnenna Okore.

Osi Audu. Self-Portrait after Gelede Headdress. 2018. Acrylic on canvas. 56x79cm. **File name:** osi-audu-self-portrait-after-gelede-headdress-large.jpg. **Caption:** Osi Audu: Self-Portrait after Gelede Headdress (2018).

Oyele (Hole). 2017. Burlap, yarn, wire, dye. 249x140x43cm. **File name:** nnenna-okore-oyele-large.jpg. **Caption:** Nnenna Okore: Oyele (2017).

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